

Literacy B.C. Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 3

April 1991

Learner Events Update:

Several of the 29 B.C. cost shared learner events have been held and were very successful.

In KELOWNA, the Literacy Learners Movement of Kelowna had a regional learner event on April 13th. More than 60 students attended from Kelowna, Osoyoos, Salmon Arm and Penticton. There were workshops on employment opportunities, computers, library services, banking and a very special session where learners shared their writings and discussed their concerns.

On April 19th, 90 learners from Courtenay, Nanaimo, Duncan and Parksville attended the event called OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS. This event was co-sponsored by Malaspina College, Parksville/Qualicum, The Write Place, Ministry of Social Services and Housing and Outreach 69. A variety of workshops were offered which included: native issues, self esteem, child development, how to keep your job, returning to school, and prerequisites and funding sources. The day ended with an excellent sharing session.

In CRANBROOK, 80 students from the East Kootenay region attended an event which included mini workshops on How to learn more effectively, Relationships and how they are affected when someone goes back to school, Money management, and Building self esteem. The day ended with learners and students from a local high school drama class performing the play Marks on Paper.

COMOX VALLEY LEARNERS' EVENT
Students and staff at the ABE level of North Island College have organized the 3rd Annual Learner Event, April 24, 1991 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The purpose of the event is for students to socialize, share experiences and obtain information. The morning involves three speakers and discussion periods. The topics are: employment issues, drug and alcohol issues, day care and single parenting issues. Following a free lunch, Marks on Paper will be performed by ABE students. Fern Senior, Carla Waters, Bob Jacobson, and Wesley Schultz, are to be congratulated for all their hard work organizing this event.



the news from across BC

Project Literacy Abbotsford/Matsqui Contact: Wendy Watson - 853-7441

The group is currently helping to organize a Learners' Network, that will offer support and peer group assistance to adult students. They are also helping to start a new Project Literacy group in Mission. Anyone who is interested in the Mission group, call Wendy Watson - 853-7441.

Project Literacy Kelowna Contact: Maxine Veach

The group has just completed a very successful quilt raffle which raised \$5,000. The McKinley Landing Quilters donated the quilt which depicted the flowers of each province and the territories. The winner was Mrs. Val Kajat of Kelowna.

Tutor training sessions are now being held in Winfield. Having trained tutors in this community will really help learners who are not able to travel to Kelowna.

Project Literacy Richmond Contact: Betty McLeod

A new group is just getting started in this area. Anyone interested, call Betty McLeod - 274-6606.

Project Literacy Terrace Contact: Nat Purcell - 635-9119

Project Literacy Terrace is pleased to announce the appointment of Nat Purcell as coordinator of their new downtown learning centre called THE READING PLACE.

Nat recently completed his masters in Intercultural Administration and Training. Nat was involved in developing first language literacy

classes in Nepal. He also worked at the Agricultural University in Czechoslovakia developing curriculum and teaching adult ESL students.

Project Literacy Terrace has finished its first tutor training. Nat is busy doing outreach to develop their services and recruit learners. The grand opening for THE READING PLACE will be May 11th. Everyone is welcome to come. The new address for Project Literacy Terrace is: 4722 Lakelse Avenue
PO Box 54
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 1R6
Phone: 635-9119

Project Literacy Victoria Contact: Charlotte Bowie New Address: 760A Hillside Avenue Victoria, B.C. V8T 1Z4 Phone: 381-3755

Recently, nine learners, eight from Victoria, and one from Duncan talked of their personal experiences in literacy programs at a public event on April 9th.

The learners wrote their own speeches and moderated the panel. The speakers had a powerful effect on the audience and a lively question and answer period followed.

A new service assisting learners with forms, letters and appeals, has started at Project Literacy Victoria.

Learners will be putting on the play Marks on Paper in local schools beginning in May.

The Learners' Network is currently training 20 new volunteer tutors.

A local filmmaker Barry Casson is producing a made for TV movie about literacy through Project Literacy Victoria.

Project Literacy Victoria's first Plain Language newsletter rolled off the press March 19th and has been well received by the community.

the news from across BC

Project Literacy West Kootenay
Contact: Judy Wearmouth - 365-7765

Currently in the Castlegar area, there are 25 learners working with tutors and nine on a waiting list. Tutor training sessions are also being held in Nelson and Trail. Judy reports that there is an urgent need for basic literacy tutoring in their region.

The group has been busy raising public awareness about their project. They will have an information booth at the Trade Fair and are using the local radio stations Public Service Announcements to advertise their tutoring program.

Linda Mitchell will give a workshop on strategic planning in the Castlegar Library, Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The Project Literacy West Kootenay Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, May 30th, at 7:00 p.m.. All local interested people are invited to attend both events.

Project Literacy Williams Lake
Contact: Debbie Demare - 398-8400

The group is involved in the Literacy Alive project to be held May 11th. The local cable company has donated the necessary technical equipment. This event will be held at the Williams Lake City Hall. Participants will be involved in a local working session between watching the two broadcast segments.

Since January the group had doubled the number of learners being tutored. L.I.F.F.E., the local learner group is busy rehearsing for their performance of Marks on Paper to be held in June.

Fort St John Literacy Society
Contact: Romi Hasco
Phone: 785-3731

Members hope to share in the Literacy Alive program by meeting in a home and taping it. The local cable company has promised to air the program.

The library has received the Xerox Kurzweil machine, which provides vocal reading of books. The machine, originally planned for the blind, is also of use for literacy programs. Ours is only the second place in B.C. to receive the machine. The first tutor training program was completed April 9th. Another program is planned for May. They are still seeking funding for a Co-ordinator to match learners and tutors. To raise funds for the program they are holding a raffle of an embroidered picture, which will be drawn at the

events (cont.)

THE NEXT STEP: A NORTHERN CONFERENCE ON BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR LITERACY
October 3-5, 1991, Houston, B.C.

Many organizations in the Northern regions have identified a need for a working conference to do with the delivery of literacy programs in remote and northern communities. The conference will address the following topics through a program of keynote speakers and learner centered panels followed by directed workshops on:

- development of a regional literacy network
- employment-oriented literacy issues
- training for literacy educators
- community development

For more information call: 687-5077

events (cont.)

LITERACY B.C.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE:

June 21/22, 1991

Vancouver, B.C.

Workshop topics will include: Workplace Literacy, Libraries as partners, Training for trainers, Plain language, Public awareness, Fundraising. There also will be forums to discuss: Volunteers tutors, Instructor accreditation, Leadership development for learners, Workplace literacy and much more...

For more information call: 687-5077

Literacy BC, founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the Ministry of Multiculturalism & Citizenship, National Literacy Secretariat, and by donations. Literacy BC welcomes your news and comments by phone, mail or the Adult Literacy Contact Centre's fax, # 684-8520.

We do reserve the right to edit all submissions. This newsletter will be published bi-monthly.

Women and Literacy

The Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women started some research into Womens' experiences in literacy programs. This report called Discovering the Strengths of our Voices is now available.

CCLOW is now starting the second stage of their research which they hope will tell more about:

- how to make it easier for programs to take on special activities for women
- which activities work well for women
- how literacy programs need to develop and change in ways that will serve women better.

If you are interested in the first research report and/or would like more information about the second part of the project, contact:

Aisla Thomson

CCLOW

47 Main Street

Toronto, Ontario M4E 2V6

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Fax: (416) 699-2145

Bulletin Board

Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell is pleased to announce the first Annual Vancouver Peter Gzowski Golf Tournament for Literacy. The tournament will be held Friday, September 27, 1991, at the University Golf Club, Vancouver, B.C. Proceeds will support the work of Literacy B.C. For more information call: 687-5077.

Prentice-Hall is looking for Canadian content Literacy and ESL materials. Anyone interested in submitting materials should contact:
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